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26 AUG 1966

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, National Reconnaissance Office

SUBJECT : Security Procedures for NRP Study, Applied Research and Advanced Development Projects

REFERENCE [Redacted]

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1. The Director of Reconnaissance, CIA has referred Reference to me to suggest a proposed program which would facilitate communications between NRO project offices and their contractors (particularly when their contracts are supervised by different Government agencies), which would be consistent and practicable in its applications, and would properly safeguard the security of the NRP.

2. My Office has examined this area of concern and has surveyed existing practices in SAFSP and CIA. The following broad policies and guidelines are proposed:

a. Personnel of all contractors working on classified contracts under the cognizance of Directors of Program Offices and having access to overhead reconnaissance information be investigated in accordance with [Redacted] standards and the pertinent biographic and clearability data recorded in the Compartmented Information Branch (CIB) of the Office of Security of CIA.

The CIB would serve as a point of reference to ascertain a person's clearability. It would save time and money if a director of one Program Office could build on clearability previously established by a director of a different Program Office. At the present time the identities of these contractor employees are kept by the security staffs of the Program Directors and there is no central point of reference.

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Excluded from automatic  
downgrading and  
declassification

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b. Compliance with [redacted] security standards for contractor employees involved in NRP research and development be the responsibility of the Program Director managing the activity.

c. The enforcement of strict "must know" for access to research and development efforts be the responsibility of the appropriate Program or Project Director.

d. Establish an NRP registry of all studies, applied research and advanced developmental projects.

The establishment of such a registry would be in accordance with the 13 August 1965 agreement and would assist in the D/NRO being kept fully informed of all programs and activities undertaken as part of the NRP. The registry would serve as an effective device to preclude duplication of effort on the part of a contractor holding contracts from a number of agencies on a specific effort. A suggested procedure would be to forward a memorandum providing a reasonably comprehensive explanation of the activity, the contractors involved, the date the contract was awarded, the estimated date of completion and the appropriate security features. Any approach to a contractor for a request for proposal would be preceded by reference to the registry and coordination, where indicated, with the Program Director already involved with the contractor. This registry would facilitate the required communications with contractors throughout the Program while ensuring that due notice is taken of existing contractor relationships and existing security considerations. By means of preliminary agreement between Program Directors, optimal communication with contractors could be achieved while properly safeguarding the security of the NRP.

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e. From a security standpoint all NRP studies, applied research and advanced development projects should be placed under [ ] control and sent to the NRO registry when it is felt by the Directors of Program Offices that knowledge of the studies, research or developmental project could compromise any phase of the overhead reconnaissance program. In the interest of national security the D/NRO will hold Directors of Program Offices responsible for the timely registration of these studies, research efforts or developmental projects.

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f. When a study, research effort or advanced developmental project reaches a stage where a complete system is deemed to be feasible, the project should be formally entered into the [ ] System with appropriate project indicator.

3. The recording of all access approvals in a central repository and the proposed NRP registry would be consistent with the responsibilities levied on the D/NRO in the 13 August 1965 agreement and would assist in ensuring the needed security for NRP studies, applied research and advanced development projects. My Office would be happy to discuss with your Staff any of the points contained in this memorandum with a view toward their early implementation.

FOR THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE:

SIGNED

[ ]  
Director of Security

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